

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTIA 00102 062107Z

65

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02

AID-05 (ISO) W

----- 128389

R 062000Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDDC 6445

INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 0102

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CI

SUBJECT: HARDLINERS RISE IN CHILE'S UNIVERSITIES

REF: SANTIAGO 7367

1. SUMMARY: NEW UNIVERSITY BUDGET CUTS AND DESIRE OF GOC TO PROMOTE RATIONALIZATION OF UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION ARE BEING USED BY GOC TO CENTRALIZE CONTROL OVER UNIVERSITY SYSTEM, AND APPARENTLY BY RIGHT WING ELEMENTS TO GET MORE OF A HOLD OVER HIGHER EDUCATION. PROSPECT OF RENEWED PURGES OF MODERATE AND LEFTIST FACULTY AND STAFF AT UNIVERSITY OF CHILE AND SANTIAGO CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN RAISED. END SUMMARY.

2. RECENT APPOINTMENT OF RETIRED AIR FORCE COLONEL JULIO TAPIA FALK AS RECTOR-DELEGATE OF UNIVERSITY OF CHILE IS VIEWED BY SOME OBSERVERS AS REFLECTION OF INCREASED INFLUENCE IN UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS BY EXTREME RIGHTWING "PATRIA Y LIBERTAD" ELEMENTS, WITH WHOM HE IS THOUGHT TO BE ASSOCIATED. PUBLICIZED BY GOVERNMENT AS UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR WHO KNOWS UNIVERSITY PROBLEMS, TAPIA'S REAL QUALIFICATION IS PROBABLY HIS STATUS AS ADVISER TO JUNTA MEMBER/AIR FORCE CINC GENERAL LEIGH. HE REPLACES CONSERVATIVE RECTOR-DELEGATE, RETIRED AIR FORCE GENERAL AGUSTIN RODRIGUEZ, WHO REPORTEDLY RESIGNED DISCOURAGED AT LARGE PROJECTED REDUCTION OF GOC SUPPORT TO UNIVERSITY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTIA 00102 062107Z

FOR 1976; RODRIGUEZ'S 18 MONTHS AS RECTOR WERE UNINSPIRED.

TAPIA'S FIRST OFFICIAL ACT AS RECTOR-DELEGATE DEC 30 WAS UNPRECEDENTED CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF RESIGNATIONS BY PRO-RECTOR, ALL VICE-RECTORS, DEANS AND FACULTY CHAIRMEN AND TOP STAFF PERSONNEL (ABOUT 270 PERSONS IN ALL) WITHIN 48 HOURS TO GIVE HIM "ABSOLUTE FREEDOM OF ACTION."

3. TAPIA OBSERVED UPON ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE THAT "THE GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDS VERY WELL THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH AND ESPECIALLY THE UNIVERSITY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILE AND THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY. IT UNDERSTANDS TOO THAT THE UNIVERSITY IS THE PRINCIPAL PLACE CHOSEN BY THE FORCES HOSTILE TO CHILE FOR INFILTRATING THE NATION SINCE THERE IS NO BETTER PLACE THAN THIS TO PROPAGATE MARXIST DOCTRINES . . ."TAPIA CHARACTERIZED THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC FREI GOVERNMENT'S UNIVERSITY REFORMS AS HAVING "DESTROYED THE UNIVERSITY," AND PROMISED TO CONTINUE RECONSTRUCTION WORK. IN JAN 3 NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW, TAPIA EXTENDED HIS CRITICISM OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, COMMENTING: "I UNDERSTAND THAT THE CONCEPT OF POLITICAL SECTARIANISM (AS A UNIVERSITY PROBLEM) INCLUDES NOT JUST THE EXTREME AND OPEN ACTION OF SOVIET MARXISM, BUT ALSO THE COVERT BUT NO LESS DANGEROUS WORK OF OTHER ELEMENTS, WHO ARE NOT ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THAT THEY THEREBY COLLABORATE IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE COUNTRY."

4. IN SANTIAGO'S CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, ACROSS-THE-BOARD BUDGET CUTS OF ABOUT 30 PERCENT MAY BE PRODUCING SOME POLITICALLY-INSPIRED DISMISSALS. ALTHOUGH CONTRADICTIONARY VERSIONS OF STORY ARE CIRCULATING, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT ELEVEN STAFF MEMBERS OF VICE RECTORATE OF COMMUNICATIONS ARE BEING LET GO AFTER VETO OF VICE RECTOR'S FIRST, "TECHNICAL," LIST OF EXPENDABLE PERSONNEL BY RECTOR-DELEGATE AND SUBSTITUTION OF MORE POLITICALLY BASED LIST CONSISTING MOSTLY OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. IN ADDITION, POLITICALLY MOTIVATED REORGANIZATIONS IN DEPARTMENTS OF COMMUNICATION ARTS, JOURNALISM AND THEOLOGY ARE RUMORED TO BE IN THE WORKS.

5. AUTONOMY OF CHILEAN UNIVERSITIES HAD BEEN EXEMPLIFIED BY SELF-GOVERNMENT THROUGH COUNCIL OF RECTORS. AUTONOMY WAS LARGELY A FICTION AFTER SEPTEMBER 1973 COUP, SINCE NEW GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY APPOINTED MILITARY RECTORS-DELEGATE, WHO

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANTIAGO 00102 062107Z

TOOK THEIR ORDERS FROM HIGHER UPS. EDUCATION MINISTRY LAST WEEK ISSUED DECREE NAMING MINISTER OF EDUCATION AS PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL OF RECTORS, THUS REFORMING CHAIN OF COMMAND TO REFLECT REALITY. AT SAME TIME GOC HAS ADOPTED NEW POLICY OF CHANNELING ALL UNIVERSITY SUPPORT FUNDS (WHICH MAKE UP MAJOR PART OF BUDGETS) THROUGH MINISTRY. THIS IS CLEAR STEP TOWARD ADMINISTRATIVE RATIONALIZATION, BUT ALSO INCREASES POWER OF GOC HARDLINERS, WHO ARE BELIEVED TO BE INFLUENTIAL

IN EDUCATION MINISTRY.

6. COMMENT: CHILEAN UNIVERSITIES ARE GOING THROUGH SAME ECONOMIC CRISIS AS MANY OTHER INSTITUTIONS HERE; THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN TRAUMATIZED BY THIS EXPERIENCE, ADDED TO TUMULT OF ALLENDE YEARS AND CHANGES AFTER COUP. IT APPEARS THAT GOVERNMENT AND RIGHTWINGERS WILL NOW USE FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS AS COVER FOR EXTENDING POLITICAL CONTROL OVER UNIVERSITY SYSTEM. TAPIA'S WORDS REFLECT THOSE OF HIS BOSS, GENERAL LEIGH (REFTEL), WHEN HE SAID IN OCTOBER THAT DISMISSALS SHORTLY AFTER 1973 COUP HAD NOT FULLY PURGED UNIVERSITIES OF UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS. UNLESS LEIGH AND HIS MAN ARE TALKING THROUGH THEIR HATS, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT DISMISSALS ALLEGEDLY BASED ON ECONOMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE GROUNDS WILL INCLUDE DISPROPORTIONATELY HIGH SHARE OF POLITICALLY SUSPECT FACULTY AND STAFF PERSONNEL.
POPPER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, JUNTA, UNIVERSITIES, SPEECHES, SELFGOVERNMENT, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANTIA00102
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760004-0669
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760183/aaaacvql.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 SANTIAGO 7367
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HARDLINERS RISE IN CHILE'S UNIVERSITIES
TAGS: PINT, CI, UNIVERSITY OF CHILE, CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY OF CONCEPCION
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006